

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for removing a contaminant from contaminated groundwater, which process comprises the following steps:

- a) a biologically active layer is applied on or in the soil
- b) the contaminated groundwater is contacted with the biologically active layer with the aid of a gas and/or by pumping.

2. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the biologically active layer is applied discontinuously.

3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the biologically active layer is of such depth that the lower part of the layer is located in the groundwater.

4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the contaminated groundwater is brought into or on top of the biologically active layer.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the contaminated groundwater is contacted with the biologically active layer more than once.

8. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the contaminant is readily soluble.

9. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ an electron acceptor is added during the process.

10. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ ammonia is nitrified to nitrate and subsequently nitrate is converted into N_2 through addition of a carbon-containing component.

11. (currently amended) Process ~~for removing a contaminant from contaminated groundwater, according to claim 1,~~ wherein the contaminant is NH_3 and ~~which wherein the~~ process comprises the following steps:

- a) a biologically active layer is applied in or on the soil;
- b) the contaminated groundwater is contacted under aerobic conditions with the biologically active layer whereby in the biologically active layer NH_3 is converted into NO_3^- ;
- c) step b) is repeated during a period of time that is needed to reduce the concentration of NH_3 to the desired level;
- d) subsequently, the groundwater whose concentration of NH_3 has been reduced to the desired level is contacted with the biologically active layer under anaerobic conditions; and
- e) step d) is repeated during the period of time that is needed to reduce the concentration of NO_3^- to the desired level.

12. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a detergent is added.